



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CAAL
5/2/2013
Agenda Item 6

May 2, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

From: Renea Eshleman, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Awards for *Improving Teacher Quality* Competitive Grants Program, FY 2013-14 (New and Continuing)

Background

Since 1984, the Commission on Higher Education has been responsible for administering federal funds under a Title II program of *The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*. In 2001, the federal legislation was re-authorized under the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*. Title II, Part A of NCLB, entitled *Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers and Principals*, authorizes the Commission to conduct a competitive awards program to provide support to increase student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom and highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools.

The Commission is authorized to provide a competitive grants program to partnerships comprised, at a minimum, of schools of education and arts and sciences from higher education institutions along with one or more high-need local education agencies (LEAs) which are defined as school districts. Additional partners may be included as defined by the legislation.

The higher education program is a competitive grants program with the primary focus on professional development; however, there are several recent significant changes under the legislation. Foremost is that the Commission will only award grants to eligible partnerships that are comprised of, at a minimum, (1) a private or public institution of higher education and the division of the institution that prepares teachers and principals; (2) a school of arts and sciences; and (3) a high-need local education agency (defined in the legislation as a school district classified as high-needs based upon U.S. census data). Additional partners may also be included. A second change is that there is no longer a focus only on science and mathematics. Instead, nine core academic areas (English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography) could be

addressed in proposals. A third change allowed the provided professional development to focus on in-service and pre-service teachers, as well as principals and paraprofessionals (in the core academic areas that the teachers teach). Finally, the emphasis of the proposed projects was required to be on low-performing districts and schools, and the Commission was charged with ensuring an equitable geographic distribution of grants.

The priority areas that proposals were required to address were determined by the federal legislation and are identified in the State's Consolidated State Plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Under federal regulations, 2.5 percent of the *Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Grants* (ITQ) funds for the state is allocated to the Commission to be used for the competitive grants program. The Commission is expected to receive \$800,542 with which to make Federal FY 2013-14 awards. This year, given the reduced amount of funding available and the potential for discontinuation of the program in the near future, no new projects were funded. Currently funded projects could request up to \$125,000 to continue professional development projects in mathematics and science content for FY 2013-14. Staff sought proposals that will continue to have maximum impact to assure positive results on the target audience. The number of grants awarded was determined primarily by the quality of the proposals submitted and the size of the negotiated final budgets in comparison to the total funds available. Equitable geographic distribution of districts served was considered in making awards, assuming proposals are deemed to be of high quality. No proposal was considered unless it met the minimum federal definition of a partnership (as stated in the *ITQ Guidelines* and in the *Federal Title II Non-Regulatory Guidance*).

Review Panel Recommendations

A review panel consisting of higher education representatives and CHE staff (**Attachment 1**) met on April 5, 2013, to review and rate the eight proposals submitted for consideration for continuation of funding. Seven fundable projects were identified by the FY 2013-14 review panel (**Attachment 2**) because of their success in meeting the stated goals and objectives in their original proposals, for appropriate activities as identified by the federal guidelines, and the geographic representation. The funding amount for the recommended awards for FY 2013-14 is \$776,000 contingent upon availability of funds from the federal government.

The seven proposals recommended for continued funding will allow teachers in thirteen school districts to receive professional development in mathematics or science content.

A map (**Attachment 3**) is attached which shows the high-needs LEAs that are eligible to participate in the Improving Teacher Quality Grant programs based on federal guidelines.

Recommendation

In keeping with and following the Committee's authority to make the new and continuing awards on behalf of the Commission for the *Improving Teacher Quality* grant program the staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approve on behalf of the Commission the review panel's funding recommendations as shown in **Attachments 2**. Funding will be contingent upon the project directors' revisions of the proposed projects in accord with the review panel's recommended changes and availability of federal funds.

Attachment 1

**ITQ Review Panel
2013-14
April 5, 2013
10:00 am – 3:30 pm**

<p>Dr. Valerie Harrison</p> <p><i>Interim Dean, School of Education</i> Claflin University 131 Bowen Hall Orangeburg, SC 29115 803-535-5225 vharrison@claflin.edu</p> <p>Independent Higher Education</p>	<p>Tessa Weinstein, Ph.D.</p> <p><i>Assistant Professor of Mathematics</i> Department of Mathematics and Statistics Coastal Carolina University Wall 124 E P.O. Box 261954 Conway, SC 29528-6054 (843) 349-4111 tweinste@coastal.edu</p> <p>Public Higher Education</p>
<p>Glenda LaRue</p> <p><i>Engineering</i> Director, The STEM Center of Excellence The Citadel 171 Moultrie Street Charleston, SC 29409 843-953-7121 glarue@citadel.edu</p> <p>Public Higher Education</p>	<p>Trena Houp</p> <p><i>English</i> Program Manager, Academic Affairs & Licensing South Carolina Commission on Higher Education 1122 Lady Street, Suite 300 Columbia, SCD 29201 803-737-4853 thoup@che.sc.gov</p> <p>CHE Staff</p>
<p><i>Staff Support</i></p> <p>Dr. Paula A. Gregg Program Manager, Academic Affairs & Licensing SC Commission on Higher Education 1333 Main Street, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29201 803-737-2246 pgregg@che.sc.gov</p> <p>CHE Staff</p>	

**Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education
Continuing Proposals Submitted
FY 2013-14**

Project Director Name	Grant	Institution	High Need LEA(s)	Funding Year	Requested Funds 2013-14	Recommended for Funding	Funds Recommended for 2013-14
Calvin Williams; Nicole Bannister Sinwell	<i>Improving Middle Grades Teacher Quality through the Clemson Mathematics Institute and Video Club</i>	Clemson University	Abbeville, Greenwood 51	Year 2	\$ 126,819.00	Yes	\$127,000.00
Nieves McNulty	<i>South Carolina High Energy Mathematics Circle (SACHEMaTC)</i>	Columbia College	Fairfield	Year 2	\$99,999.00	Yes	\$100,000.00
Stephen Thompson; Bert Ely	<i>Expanding Nature-Based Inquiry Opportunities in Elementary Science Education</i>	USC-Columbia	Clarendon 1, Richland 1	Year 2	\$120,860.00	Yes	\$121,000.00
Patty Hambrick; Melinda Walker	<i>Integrating Reading Skills in Inquiry-Base Science Instruction (IRIS)</i>	Charleston Southern	Charleston	Year 2	\$107,740.00	Yes	\$108,000.00
Kathy Richardson Jones; Glenda LaRue	<i>Developing Highly Qualified Science and Mathematics Teachers through Project-Based Learning</i>	The Citadel	Charleston, Colleton, Hampton 1	Year 4	\$99,999.00	Yes	\$100,000.00
Marilyn Izzard; Judy Newman	<i>Unveiling Mathematics Standards</i>	USC-Upstate	Sumter	Year 4	\$113,812.00	No	NA
Jeff Priest; Gwen Johnson	<i>PRIME TIME on Achievement: Projects for Rigorous Instruction in Mathematics Education with Technology Integration for Maximum Effect on Achievement</i>	USC-Aiken	Allendale, Aiken, Bamberg 2	Year 3	\$119,524.00	Yes	\$120,000.00
Cynthia Deaton	<i>Project RES: Reform-based Environmental Science</i>	Clemson University	Orangeburg 3, Orangeburg 5	Year 5	\$99,999.00	Yes	\$100,000.00
Total Funds Requested					\$ 774,940.00		
Total Funds Recommended for Awards FY 2013-14							\$776,000.00

